

TRICARE medical teams act as 'family doctors'

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People who haven't enrolled in TRICARE may find it difficult to get an appointment at the hospital.

The hospital staff officially "turned on the TRICARE switch" in the appointment system Feb. 1. This means the majority of appointments are reserved for those people enrolled in TRICARE Prime. There are some space-available appointments for our retirees who haven't had the opportunity to enroll yet, and for Department of Defense civilians and contractors.

Once enrolled in TRICARE, people are assigned to a primary care manager team. The teams are a group of primary-care providers who manage the health care of those assigned to the team. Primary care manager team members are either licensed physicians, physicians' assistants, or nurse practitioners, and will act as a "family doctor."

For hospital patrons, this means their initial contact with the health-care system is always with their primary care manager. People will get appointments with their primary care manager for most routine appointments through central appointments at Ext. 1847.

The primary care manager will provide both acute care and on-going monitoring of chronic problems. If people need specialty care, the primary care manager will refer them to the right place. After being seen by a specialist, the primary care managers will continue to manage their health care. Those

people who currently have appointments outside their team should keep all appointments.

Primary care manager teams don't just provide care when people are sick. They also provide guidance to keep them well. The team will advise people on preventative health measures, such as immunizations and cancer screening, and work with them on ways to promote their health through fitness, proper diet, stress management and smoking cessation. The primary care manager team manages all health care needs. They are a team of special professionals who help not only when people are sick, but help people become the healthiest they can be.

The three primary care manager teams in family practice are A, B and C. There is also a pediatrics team, flight medicine team and an internal medicine team. People on flying status are assigned to the flight medicine team. Others are generally assigned to the family practice teams by unit.

Family practice team A consists of people assigned to Training Detachment 16, 48th Component Repair Squadron, 48th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, 48th Support



Photo by TSgt. Sam Shore

Members of the pediatrics primare care manager team with some of their patients.

Group staff, 5th Space Surveillance Squadron and local Air Force Institute of Technology students.

Family practice team B consists of people assigned to the 18th Intelligence Squadron, 48th Civil Engineer Squadron, 48th Contracting Squadron, 48th Comptroller Flight, 48th Communications Squadron, 48th Fighter Wing staff, 48th Security Police Squadron, 48th Services Squadron, 48th Transportation Squadron and the Air Froce News agency.

Family practice team C consists of people assigned to the 48th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, 48th Dental Squadron, 48th Logistics Group staff, 48th Supply Squadron, 48th Medical Group staff, 48th Medical Operations Squadron, 48th Medical Support Squadron, 48th Mission Support Squadron, 48th Operations Group staff and the 492nd, 493rd and the 494th fighter squadrons.

It's possible that members of the same family are on different primary care manager teams. For example, an active-duty member on flying status is a member of the flight medicine team while their spouse could be on a family practice primary care manager team and their children could be members of the pediatrics team.

For urgent, same day and acute requests, people should call their team directly rather than go through central appointments. The phone numbers are as follows:

□ Family practice primary care manager teams: (0800) 137858 or Ext. 2445

□ Pediatrics primary care manager team: Ext. 2565 or Ext. 3110

□ Flight medicine primary care manager team for all requests: Ext. 3211 or Ext. 3544

□ Internal medicine primary care manager team for all requests: Ext. 6328

For more information on primary care manager teams or TRICARE, contact the TRICARE service center at Ext. 6210.



Photo by A1C Robert H. Gerlach

All the kings horses and all the kings men...

A local contractor destroys one of the 48th Fighter Wing's F-15s Monday in compliance with the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe treaty. Two of the wing's jets were destroyed. Both aircraft had been ground trainers and were no longer need.